

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
MARCH 6, 2019**

ITEM 12

SUBJECT

PERFLOUROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS) INFORMATIONAL ITEM

DISCUSSION

State Water Board staff will present an informational item on March 6, 2019 consisting of an invited panel of Federal and State Agencies, and Non-Governmental Organizations. The goal of this informational item is to inform the Water Board and public of PFAS, potential sources, and potential risks to drinking water. Panelists will provide updates on existing state and federal actions, as well as the Water Board's Phased Investigation Plan.

PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals resistant to heat, water, and oil. There are no natural sources of PFAS. Manufacturing of PFAS started in the 1940s and are still produced today. PFAS are used in industrial and consumer products such as carpets, rugs, water-proof clothing, upholstery, food paper wrappings, non-stick products, cleaning products, fire-fighting foams, and metal plating (e.g., cookware). Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) are fluorinated organic chemicals that are part of the PFAS group of chemicals. No longer manufactured in the United States, PFOA and PFOS are still manufactured globally and imported into the US. Since these chemicals have been used in an array of consumer products, scientists have found PFOA and PFOS in the blood of nearly all people tested. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), blood levels of both PFOS and PFOA have steadily decreased in U.S. residents since 1999-2000. However, manufacturers are developing replacement technologies in the PFAS family, by substituting longer-chain substances with shorter-chain substances.

In May 2016, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) issued a lifetime health advisory for PFOS and PFOA in drinking water, advising municipalities that they should notify their customers of the presence of levels over 70 parts per trillion in community water supplies. U. S. EPA recommended that customer notifications include information on the increased risk to health, especially for susceptible populations.

In June 2018, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) recommended interim notification levels for PFOA (based on liver toxicity, as well as cancer risks) and for PFOS (based on immunotoxicity). OEHHA made these recommendations following its review of currently available health-based advisories and standards and supporting documentation. After independent review of the available information on the risks, the Water Board Division of Drinking Water established notification levels at concentrations of 13 parts per trillion for PFOS and 14 parts per trillion for PFOA. These levels are consistent with OEHHA's recommendations.

State Water Board staff will also present Water Board's Phased Investigation Plan requiring testing at target sites and drinking water supply wells in the vicinity.

Meeting materials and additional details will be posted on the Board Agenda prior to the March 6, 2019 Informational Item at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/calendar/#03-2019

POLICY ISSUE

None.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

None, this is an informational item only.